CLAIM AMENDMENTS

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1-5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (**Currently Amended**) An automation system comprising:

an industrial controller for integrating a plurality of automation components in a uniform configurable running level model of a respective runtime system of the industrial controller, the industrial controller comprising a plurality of bus interfaces and an internal timer for generating an internal clock,

[[an]] <u>a</u> first bus coupled with a first bus interface of the plurality of bus interfaces of the industrial controller, wherein the first bus interface comprises a bus timer,

a first external device coupled with the industrial controller through a second bus with a second bus interface of the plurality of bus interfaces of the industrial controller, the first external device comprising a clock source,

a technical process coupled with said first bus, the technical process comprising a clock generator,

wherein a main clock for the industrial controller is selected ~~form~~ <u>from</u> the internal clock or the bus timer or the clock source or the clock generator.

7.   (Previously Presented) An automation system according to claim 6, wherein the running level model comprises a plurality of system levels and user levels which can be prioritized.

8.   (Previously Presented) An automation system according to claim 6, wherein user level tasks can be loaded into at least one user level.

9.   (Previously Presented) An automation system according to claim 8, wherein the user tasks can access an overall functionality of the industrial controller.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method for the integrating a plurality of automation components in a uniform running level model of a respective runtime system of the industrial controller, comprising the steps of:

- providing an industrial controller coupled with at least one external device and at least one technical process;

- flexibly configuring a uniform running model for a control task of the industrial controller wherein the industrial controller receives a main clock,

- providing clock sources comprising at least: an internal timer of the industrial controller, an internal timer of a communication bus, a clock source within an external device, and a process event within a technological process, and

- selecting one of said clock sources as said main clock.

11.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the running level model comprises a plurality of system levels and user levels which can be prioritized.

12.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein user level tasks can be loaded into at least one user level.

13.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the process event are clock signals generated by a clock source within the technological process.

14.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the clock signals are a work clock of a production machine or of a packing machine.

15.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein user tasks can access an overall functionality of the industrial controller.